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Fairy Tales Before Disney And Grimm: Giambattista Basile, Newly Translated

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Giambattista Basile wrote down the earliest European 'Cinderella' story, over 300 years before this Walt Disney illustrated version of the same tale. (Tom Simpson / Flickr)

90.9 WBUR

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Fairy Tales Before Disney And Grimm: Giambattista Basile, Newly Translated

Radio Boston

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Before Walt Disney's 1950 "Cinderella" movie, there were the Grimm Brothers, who wrote an earlier Cinderella tale in 1857. And before the Grimm Brothers, there was Charles Perroult's "Cinderella," published in 1697. And even before Perroult, there was Giambattista Basile, the Neapolitan poet and courtier whose "Cinderella" story, published in 1634, is the first European version of the tale ever written.

Don't recognize that last name? Well, Giambattista Basile penned the earliest European versions of the Rapunzel and Cinderella tales. He also wrote versions of other fairy tale classics such as "Puss in Boots," "Sleeping Beauty," "Snow White" and "Beauty and the Beast" before the Grimm brothers, Perroult and Disney.

Basile's name still isn't ringing a bell? Maybe this newest translation will change that.

Guest

Nancy Canepa, associate professor at Dartmouth College.

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WBUR: Folklore For Hipsters: Fairy Tales Before They Were Cool

- "Reading The Tale of Tales, Giambattisa Basile's 17th-century book of fairy stories, is both exhilarating and exhausting. If that sounds like a warning, it is. If that sounds like a promise, well, good news."

Journal of Folklore Research Reviews: Giambattista Basile's The Tale of Tales, Or Entertainment For Little Ones

- "Back beyond about 1500, things fall apart: there is very little European material that conforms to whole fairy-tale tale types. Nevertheless, many of the episodes and motifs that are important in fairy tales have interesting analogs in literature from earlier times in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Basile’s Tale of Tales constitutes a crossroads in this landscape, and Canepa has provided a valuable service by making it available again in English."

The Guardian: Tale Of Tales Review: Monarch Of The Gran

- "Matteo Garrone's Tale of Tales is fabulous in every sense: a freaky portmanteau film based on the folk myths collected and published by the 16th-century Neapolitan poet and scholar Giambattista Basile."

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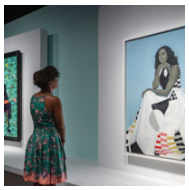

Museum of Fine Arts hosts the Obama portraits and unveils a new look

As visitors seek out the Obamas, the MFA also hopes they'll take note of its first rebrand in 30 years, featuring a new logo and welcome banners that read, "Here All Belong." Director Matthew Teitelbaum said timing the updated messaging's launch with the arrival of the acclaimed portraits was intensional.

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Arroyo releases part of sexual assault file, says they show 'no crime was committed'

The documents show that three months after the case was first opened in November 2005, a Suffolk assistant district attorney sent an email closing out the investigation.

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With just days before the primary, Mass. governor candidates dig in

Donald Trump is throwing his weight behind Geoff Diehl. Maura Healey is preparing for November. And Chris Doughty is appealing to "the exhausted middle." Here's how the gubernatorial candidates are closing out the Massachusetts primary.

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Lawmakers ask DPU chief to testify at hearing on MBTA safety

State lawmakers have asked the head of the Department of Public Utilities to testify on the agency's role monitoring safety at the troubled MBTA, at a hearing slated for early October.

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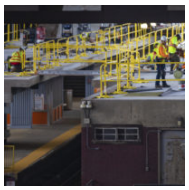

Work on closed Orange Line about halfway complete

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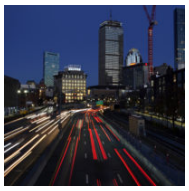

Here's what to expect if you're traveling this Labor Day weekend

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation advises drivers to consult mobile navigation apps to avoid congestion while traveling around Boston this holiday weekend.

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Man shot to death near Ashmont station

According to Boston Police, the male victim was hit by gunfire just after 5 p.m. near Dorchester Avenue and the dead-end side street near Ashmont station. No arrests have been reported.

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As N.H. Republicans ready for primary, Democrats work to push abortion rights to center of campaign

This push comes in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson ruling, which struck down a constitutional right to abortion. It also coincides with historic political tension over abortion and contraception policies in Concord.

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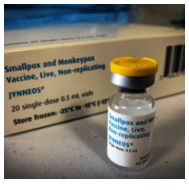

Vax supply limited as state confirms 37 new monkeypox cases

The 37 new cases announced Thursday by the Department of Public Health raise the state's total case count to 317 as of Aug. 31.

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Labor Day weekend brings mostly pleasant late summer weather, with chance of thunderstorms

The weekend will start with some fantastic, mild temperatures, but look out for a chance of stormier weather on Sunday and Monday.

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